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Chief, London Bureau

22 September 1948

Chief, FBIB

Insurance for Government Automobile

1. Reference is made to your cable 211120 concerning insurance policies for the station wagon and the sedan recently shipped to your Bureau.

2. For your information, it is the policy of the U. S. Government to consider itself as self-insurer for all vehicles operated by the U. S. Government. At present there is no existing law which authorizes Government agencies to contract with private insurance concerns for Government automobiles operated by U. S. Agencies.

3. However, the question as to the advisability of purchasing automobile insurance from private concerns was recently raised by the Chief of the Mediterranean Bureau. This matter was referred to the Office of General Counsel, CIA, and an opinion was rendered which states in brief that where U. S. Government agencies are operating motor vehicles outside the continental limits of the United States in an area where the existing laws of a foreign government state that it is mandatory for vehicle operators to provide automobile insurance, the purchase of such insurance from private concerns may be obtained at U. S. Government expense.

4. It is therefore suggested that you ascertain whether English law makes it mandatory for the operators of motor vehicles to provide insurance from private concerns, and advise this office without delay.

L. K. WHITE

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cc: Admin.
LBS:gmr

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